

## COUNCIL CALLED TO DISCUSS INSURANCE

President Jones Thinks Commonwealth's Attorney's Course Should be Approved.

## COLONEL BUTTON AGREES TO ACT AS MEDIATOR

After Conferences With Representatives of Commercial Organizations, and Others Commissioner Says He Thinks He Can Have Rate Reduced If Council Lowers Tax.

President D. S. Jones last night instructed City Clerk Floyd A. Hudgins to issue a call for a special meeting of the common council for Monday night at 8 o'clock at the city hall for the purpose of discussing the insurance matter and taking such action in the matter as the council may deem wise and proper.

There was some talk yesterday of effecting a compromise between the council and the insurance trust, but President Jones said last night that he personally is unqualifiedly opposed to any compromise and that he hopes the council will take the same view of the matter and go on record as approving the course pursued by Commonwealth's Attorney Berkeley in this matter. Mr. Jones declared that he believed that Captain Berkeley did just the right thing at the right time in serving warrants on the members of the Southeastern Underwriters' Association, and that he proposes to do everything in his power to support him throughout the fight.

Following is a copy of President Jones' letter to the clerk: "Newport News, Va., May 20, 1909. "Floyd A. Hudgins, Esq., "City Clerk.

"Dear Sir:—

"You are hereby directed to call a special meeting of the common council to meet in the council chamber on the evening of May 23rd, 1910, at 8 o'clock p. m., for the following purposes: "To take such action as to the council may seem wise and expedient concerning the recent increase in fire insurance rates in this city by the Southeastern Underwriters' Association, and any and all matters appertaining thereto."

"Very truly yours, "D. S. JONES, "President Common Council."

"Would Act as Arbitrator.

Following a conference with insurance agents, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Merchants' Association and other persons interested, Col. Joseph Button, the State insurance commissioner, who arrived in this city yesterday morning, told a Daily Press reporter yesterday afternoon that he will arrange for a meeting of the Virginia committee of the underwriters' association Tuesday at Richmond and that he will seek to act as an arbitrator in the insurance fight. He thinks that he can get the ten per cent increase taken off if the council will agree to a reduction of the license tax on the insurance companies.

Col. Button was asked how the license tax in this city compares with that of Petersburg and Norfolk, but he stated that he was not familiar with the taxes of those cities. He was also asked about the difference in the rates between the three cities and replied that he was not familiar with the rates. He commented upon the small fire insurance loss in Newport News for the past ten years and stated that he would use as an argument in the city's behalf before the Virginia committee.

**Conferences Held.** The State commissioner remained in this city from 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning until 5:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon and during that time he was called upon at the Warwick Hotel by a number of business men and others. He was met yesterday

morning by President Alex Meyers, of the Merchants' Association; George Nelms Wise, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce committee on taxation and legislation; Councilman E. W. Milstead, J. L. Patton, an insurance agent; W. T. Chapin, an insurance agent; M. H. Lash, Walter R. Livezey, C. B. Nelms, W. S. Copeland, Dr. S. W. Hobson and S. R. Buxton. During the day practically all of the insurance agents in the city called on the commissioner and at 4 o'clock, Col. Button held a second conference with Chairman Caleb D. West, of the finance committee of the city council; Councilman E. W. Milstead, and Alderman Clarence G. Nelms.

At the morning conference, Col. Button was informed that neither the business organizations of the city nor the city council had instigated the legal proceedings against the insurance people. He also was told that the council had spent \$5,000 in improvements to the city fire department during the past year, and President Meyers, of the Merchants' Association, showed him that the insurance companies had advanced their rates 21.2 per cent more than the increase in tax and that they were penalizing the property holders of the city to that extent for the action of the council.

Col. Button made an informal address to those present, stating that he did not think relief from the existing conditions could be had by means of "non-board" or independent insurance companies. He declared that the case was a hard one, but that he would try to use his best influence with the Virginia committee on behalf of the people.

**Mr. Livezey's Proposition.**

Finally Walter B. Livezey, of the Old Dominion Land Company, put the following question to Col. Button: "Upon assurances that neither the commercial bodies nor the council had anything to do with the legal action taken against the Southeastern Underwriters' Association, will you undertake to act as a mediator between the people of Newport News and the insurance people with a view to effecting a settlement on a basis of a flat license tax of \$25 and 21.2 per cent?"

Col. Button said that he would be glad to put this proposition to the insurance people and requested that until he could see the committee the city council take no action in the matter.

Mr. Livezey's question caused much surprise. He was not authorized to speak for the city council nor, it is said, had he any assurance whatsoever that the council would agree to the reduction of the license tax. On the contrary, the idea of the commercial organizations of the city up to this time has been to let the license tax stay where it is and fight it out with the companies. The Merchants' Association went on record as taking that stand and the Chamber of Commerce referred the insurance matter to the committee on taxation and legislation with instructions to make an investigation of the matter and report to the board of directors with any recommendations it thought proper to make.

There seemed to be some effort on the part of a few yesterday to put the commissioner under the impression that the community did not approve of the course of the commonwealth's attorney in his fight against the insurance people. However, there were others who informed the commissioner with as much emphasis as possible that the community as a whole not only approves, but applauds the action of Captain Berkeley. The commissioner also was informed that Captain Berkeley did not go off "half cocked" as some express it, but that he conferred with other lawyers and with them made an exhaustive search of the law on the matter.

**"Larger Interests."** During the morning conference between the commissioner and the citizens, the fact was brought out that large interests in Newport News get insurance at a lower rate than the smaller interests. The "larger interests" referred to the shipyard. Local insurance agents say that the insurance on the shipyard is written under an entirely different rate than that generally prescribed for Newport News. They also declared that the ten per cent increase made by the Trust does not apply to the shipyard. Much of the shipyard insurance is written by local agents for a Jersey City brokerage firm, and the impression has prevailed that it was written at the same rate as other risks in Newport News of a like character.

**Agents Can't Explain.** None of the agents can explain why the Trust should prescribe a different rate for the shipyard than from other risks here. One agent states that the Jersey City broker allows local agents to write the insurance as a mer gratuity to the agents. It is a known fact that brokers in New York can write insurance on property here at a lower rate than the local agents can write the same insurance. This may have something to do with the lower rates given the shipyard by the Trust. The shipyard carries several millions in insurance; it is a good risk, and the business is desirable for any company or companies.

**Notice.**

On account of necessity of docking Steamship Essex Merchants & Miners Transportation Co. will have no ship sailing for Baltimore Saturday night May 21.

F. R. BRAGG, Agent.

W. E. Rouse—Funeral Director.

Cook With Gas.

Cook With Gas.

## STINGY CAN STAY HOME

Those Who Venture Forth Today Must Open Their Purses.

## EVERYBODY TO BE TAGGED

One Hundred Women Will Work In Interest of Public Playgrounds and No One Need Hope to Escape From Purchasing a Tag.

Stingy people must stay at home today. If they venture forth they must open up their purses and contribute towards the maintenance of the public playgrounds of the city. One hundred ladies will be "on the job" from 9 o'clock this morning until 9 o'clock tonight and it will be no safe the "tight wads" to venture in the shopping and business centers during the day for there'll be no escaping the workers in the interest of the children of Newport News.

Today is Tag Day in this city. There will be tags, tags everywhere and before the day is over there will be tags on pretty much everybody in town. Home folks and strangers will be tagged alike. Red tags, blue tags and yellow tags will be used. They will cost as much or as little as the purchaser elects, but they will cost something. Of course, the beau who ventures forth with his sweetheart will "fork over" more than the stolid married man. The batchelors will be held up on every side and each one will be made to buy at least three tags—one blue, one red and one yellow.

**Going After \$1,000.**

This will be the second Tag Day held in this city for the public playgrounds. Last year about \$200 was raised. This year the ladies are out for a clean \$1,000 and, therefore, it will be necessary for everyone to "come across." The ladies will not content themselves with tagging people along the streets. They will invade the stores, offices, banks and business houses and tag everybody in sight. People who come down the street with their pet dog will be required to tag themselves and the dog too.

There is no way that any person who is afraid today can escape the ladies. They are going out with the expressed purpose of tagging everybody. There'll be some people who will buy a half dozen tags—there always are. There'll be some others who will buy only one tag. Those who buy must wear their tags on their coats, hats, vests, hoes—anywhere. The ladies will tag each person once. Therefore the persons who wish to be tagged some more must seek the ladies.

**Two Prizes Offered.**

A prize will be given to the person wearing the greatest number of tags and a "booby" prize will be given to the person who can be found at 9 o'clock tonight without a tag adorning his or her person. The "booby" will be awarded in recognition of the cunning of the person in evading the taggers.

## SOCIAL-PERSONAL

Miss Lucile Cooper has returned from a visit to relatives in Northern Virginia.

Miss Mary Stuart, who has been studying art in Philadelphia, has returned home to spend the summer with her parents, Captain and Mrs. J. E. B. Stuart.

Miss Katherine Bolling, who has been visiting her cousins, the Misses Bolling, on Huntington avenue, has returned to her home in Washington, D. C.

Miss Mary Richardson has returned from Baltimore, where she visited friends and relatives. Miss Inez Stewart accompanied her and will be her guest here.

Mr. Pete Cohen, of Washington, D. C., is the guest of Mr. J. H. Kass, in this city.

Miss Katherine Young, who has been spending two weeks with relatives and friends in Portsmouth, has returned home. Miss Eloise Young accompanied her.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stith left yesterday for Washington, D. C., to attend the Sunday school convention in that city.

Mrs. Clarence Barnes, 612 Twenty-ninth street, has as her guest, her sister, Miss Maggie Walls, of New Kent county.

Miss Mattie McPherson, of Richmond, is visiting her mother on Twentieth street.

Miss Bertha Geiger has returned from a visit to friends and relatives in Winston-Salem, N. C.

Miss Mildred Reer, who has been visiting relatives in King William county, has returned home.

Mrs. C. H. Duck and sister, Mrs. E. W. Downing, left yesterday for a visit to friends and relatives in Smithfield and Isle of Wight Court House.

Mrs. J. C. Cline left last night for Washington, D. C., to attend the Sunday school convention there.

Captain J. B. Eken, formerly of this

city, is visiting at "The Gloucester," West avenue and Twenty-ninth street.

Miss Edith Bledsoe Stone, who has been teaching at Ivor, Va., has returned to the city to spend the summer at her home, 1233 Twenty-second street.

Mrs. L. C. Stratton, who has been spending several weeks with relatives in New Kent county, has returned home.

Miss Florence Shepherd, of Lee Hall, is visiting Mrs. R. Lee Davis, on Thirtieth street.

Miss Katherine Groomer was operated upon yesterday at the St. Francis Hospital for appendicitis. The operation was successful, and Miss Groomer probably will not be confined to the hospital more than ten days.

Mr. James E. Abbe returned yesterday from a business trip to New York.

Miss Lucile Cooper has returned home after a visit to friends in Baltimore and Fauquier county.

## DR. CREASY ASKED FOR MODIFICATION OF RULES

State Quarantine Officer Notified Governor of Action at Norfolk.

Dr. W. F. Creasy, the State quarantine officer at this port, said yesterday that immediately after the quarantine commissioners at Norfolk adopted amendments to the quarantine regulations exempting all vessels from domestic ports from inspection by the State officer he notified Governor Mann of that action and recommended that this port be put on an equal footing with Norfolk in this respect.

Governor Mann has promised the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce that he will make the same regulations for this port as adopted by the Norfolk commissioners and the new regulations will become effective here at the same time that they do at Norfolk.

## HUGH MORSE IS INDICTED.

Young Negro Held for Robbing U. S. Mail Pouches.

Hugh Morse, the eighteen-year-old son of Santa A. Morse, the former postmaster at Denbigh, Va., was indicted by the grand jury in the United States District Court at Norfolk Thursday on the charge of rifling a United States mail pouch. The boy's bond was reduced from \$3,000 to \$250, and his father, Santa Morse, was accepted as bondsman.

The grand jury returned "not a true bill" in the case of Santa Morse, who was arrested several weeks before his son, and who was charged with extracting money from United States registered parcels.

The trial of young Morse is set for the November term of the federal court.

## JOINS WAR COLLEGE.

Secretary Dickinson With Party Touring Through Virginia.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20.—Secretary Dickinson left Washington this evening for Savage Station, Va., where he will join the officers attached to the war college now on a tour of instruction through the Virginia battlefields of the Civil war.

The secretary will tomorrow go with the party over the battlefields of Savage Station and of Seven Pines and on Sunday will ride to Malvern Hill, a distance of twelve miles, thence to White Oak Swamp and Frazier's Farm.

## Jury Acquits Secretary.

ANDERSON, S. C., May 20.—Col. John Harris was acquitted tonight in the Circuit Court here of charges of forgery and breach of trust resulting from an alleged shortage of \$53,900 in Harris' accounts as secretary and assistant treasurer of the Orr Cotton Mills. The jury was out three hours. On a former hearing of the charges a mistrial resulted.

## Remember King in Richmond.

RICHMOND, VA., May 20.—At six o'clock this evening in Holy Trinity Episcopal church here, a special service in memory of King Edward VII was held and was largely attended. It was participated in by members of the Episcopal Council of Virginia, which ended its annual session here today.

## CALL OFF STRIKE.

Norfolk & Western Clerks Will Return to Work.

ROANOKE, VA., May 20.—The strike of Norfolk & Western Railway clerks, which was ordered last Tuesday, was called off today. Most of the men will get their old positions back.

## A. H. Bull Here.

A. H. Bull, president of the Bull Steamship Company, was in this city yesterday looking after the work on the new Bull liner now under construction at the shipyard. He left for New York yesterday evening.

## A Limit.

Wife—Come, come hook up my dress. Hubby—No—even the hookworm will turn—Montgomery Advertiser.

Hear Mrs. Kate Puller Meisler at 10:30, 2609 Chestnut avenue Friday night. Lunch served. Admission free.

Carriages—Call W. E. Rouse.

Just Try G. B. S. Special.

## Ballots That Ask Fool Questions.

The Short Ballot organization, which advocates making all little offices in state and city governments appointive instead of elective, so as to make politics easy for every citizen to master, has issued a list of eccentric instances of offices that are elective by popular vote.

For instance, in Indiana the voters of the state are invited to select a good man for state statistician and another for state geologist. Considering how the legislature frets over the difficulty of making people understand how to make out their ballots correctly, it is a curious blindness which overlooks the difficulty the people must have in determining which candidate is the greater expert in technical jobs like these.

In Colorado and Illinois the trustees of the state university are chosen by popular vote.

In many states court clerks and reporters are put on the ballot.

Colorado, Oregon and Washington elect the state printer. In Texas the ballots make the people decide who shall be inspector of hides and animals. In seven states the ballots carry the office of insurance commissioner. Dairy and food commissioner is an elective office in Ohio. In South Dakota attempts are being made to make the warden of the state prison and the superintendent of the state insane hospital elective instead of appointive.

In Pennsylvania the men who count the votes are elected in each district. A few years ago the triumphant verdict of the people in a certain ward favored one Clarence Boyd for this office. Years later it developed in court that no such man existed, and the people asked themselves, "How many such dummy names are we electing each year?"

The governor of Montana not long ago sent a message to the legislature advocating the amendment of the constitution to make the state mine inspector, state veterinarian and state printer elective, "thus to remove," he pleaded, "the last element of monarchy from our beloved state."

After all, the most foolish ballot query of all is the common one "Who shall be coroner?"

To all these foolish questions no one but the politician finds it worth while to give a serious answer. Little and technical administrative offices are elected, but never selected, by the people. Their presence on the ballot makes "machines" absolutely necessary to handle the business of nomination in the absence of any real public sentiment in the matter. If electing a host of officials instead of just the ones at the top has really anything to do with democracy, what must we think of the federal government with only three elective offices and 300,000 appointive ones? The short ballot movement, which seeks to reduce the number of elective offices, so that plain, ordinary, busy citizens can know what they are doing on election day, proclaims that the federal plan is more democratic than one which by electing too many makes effective citizenship a difficult profession.

## The Short Ballot.

Americans rarely realize that our custom of electing ten or twenty public officials at one time is absolutely unique among the nations.

Of course our people do not really select each of the ten or twenty; they only elect them. No electorate on earth ever had in mind at one time so many favorites. So the politicians do the real selecting beforehand by pasting a trademark label, such as "Republican" or "Democrat," on certain men, and the people, if they like some one prominent candidate who bears it, will vote for every one else with that same label. That is why we get good mayors and bad aldermen. And that is why the politicians, with their strength united on specific programs for minor nominations, can elect rascals while the clumsy, well meaning public is making up its mind about the head of the ticket.

In a village it is easy for the electorate to choose a host of local officers, because the people know the candidates. In a city or state it is easy for the people to choose a few officials, because they can learn to know the candidates by hearsay. But when the number becomes large the avenues of information become choked, and the public, having no definite ideas of its own, votes blindly by the trademark labels, and the boss who attaches the indispensable labels to the candidates becomes master.

The number of elective officials must be reduced till it comes within the scope of effective public discussion. Passing the candidates through the limelight a few at a time will make possible real selection and real government by the people. The cure is summed up in the words "short ballot." "The long ballot is the politician's ballot; the short ballot is the people's ballot."

The most harmful of our many political superstitions is the common notion that there is something democratic about electing a multitude of officials. That isn't democratic—it's autocratic, because it makes citizenship a profession and thereby disarms the bulk of the people from effective participation. Democracy means control by the people, not always election by the people.

Tell an Englishman that we hold twenty elections in one day and he will say we are fools to attempt it. Tell him that we even have to have a short ballot movement organized for the purpose of explaining to the people that the plan isn't working well and he will be sure we are fools.

## THE MEN AND WOMEN

Who Enjoy the Choicest Products of the World's Commerce.

Knowledge of What is Best More Important Than Wealth Without It.

It must be apparent to every one that qualities of the highest order are necessary to enable the best of the products of modern commerce to attain to universal acceptance. However loudly heralded, they may not hope for world-wide pre-eminence unless they meet with the general approval, not of individuals only, but of the many who have the happy faculty of selecting and enjoying the choicest products. Their commendation, consequently, becomes important to others, since to meet the requirements of the well-informed of all countries the method of manufacture must be of the most perfect order and the combination the most excellent of its kind. After thirty years of general usage, Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna is everywhere accepted as the best of family laxatives. Its quality is due not only to the excellence of the laxative and carminative principles of plants known to act most beneficially on the system, but also to the method of manufacture of the California Fig Syrup Co., which ensures that uniformity and purity essential in a remedy intended for family use. It cleanses and sweetens the system effectually, when a laxative is needed, without any unpleasant after effects. To get the beneficial effects of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, buy the genuine only; the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—is printed on the front of every package. Price, 50 cents per bottle.



## A Storekeeper Says:

"A lady came into my store lately and said: "I have been using a New Perfection Oil Cook-Stove all winter in my apartment. I want one now for my summer home. I think these oil stoves are wonderful. If only women knew what a comfort they are, they would all have one. I spoke about my stove to a lot of my friends, and they were astonished. They thought that there was smell and smoke from an oil stove, and that it heated a room just like any other stove. I told them of my experience, and one after another they got one, and now, not one of them would give hers up for five times its cost."

The lady who said this had thought an oil stove was all right for quickly heating milk for a baby, or boiling a kettle of water, or to make coffee quickly in the morning, but she never dreamed of using it for difficult or heavy cooking. Now—she knows.

Do you really appreciate what a New Perfection Oil Cook-Stove means to you? No more coal to carry, no more coming to the dinner table so tired out that you can't eat. Just light a Perfection Stove and immediately the heat from an intense blue flame shoots up to the bottom of pot, kettle or oven. But the room isn't heated. There is no smoke, no smell, no outside heat, no drudgery in the kitchen where one of these stoves is used.



Cautionary Note: Be sure you get this stove—see that the name-plate reads "New Perfection."

## New Perfection Oil Cook-stove

It has a Cabinet Top with a shelf for keeping plates and food hot. The nickel finish, with the bright blue of the chimneys, makes the stove ornamental and attractive. Made with 1, 2 and 3 burners; the 2 and 3-burner stoves can be had with or without Cabinet.

Every dealer everywhere; if not at yours, write for Descriptive Circulars to the nearest agency of the

Standard Oil Company

(Incorporated)

## Capital Dry Goods House

2910-2912 Washington Avenue

## Dress Goods Reduced!!

12 pieces of 36-38 and 40 inch Striped Mohair in a variety of colors. Extra quality in regular 50c values.

REDUCED TO HALF PRICE, 25c YARD.

## Figured Foulards

18 inch Figured Foulards in regular 39c quality, a variety of designs in assorted colors.

REDUCED TO 25c YARD.

## How Much Have You Saved the Last Year?

WATCH YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

When you see a good thing take it. Now is the time to start a savings account. Prospects were never better.

## Put Your Savings Into a Home

Buy a lot while they are cheap. Build your home. The money you save paying rent will pay for your home.

We have lots for sale or lease in all parts of the city. OUR TERMS ARE EASY. Call at our office and talk it over.

## OLD DOMINION LAND CO.

HOTEL WARWICK BUILDING.

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA.

You make the First Payment

ON A

Hartford Bicycle

It will earn the \$1.00 per week itself.

Abbe's